

through the hard volcanic rock east of the Cascade Mountains. On March 10, 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed, flooding the historic fishing and trading area around Celilo Falls.

For over 10,000 years, the falls had been an area of intense trading and commerce for Indian tribes from as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest. The falls were also noted as an extremely abundant fishery, where tons of Columbia River salmon were caught, dried, and traded.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution simply seeks to recognize the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls, and to remember Celilo Falls as an important area of fishing and trading for many tribal peoples.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 217, and I offer my congratulations to Congressman WU for his leadership on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 217 recognizes the flooding of Celilo Falls in Oregon. In 1957, the U.S. Corps of Engineers constructed the multipurpose Dalles Dam to provide much needed hydropower and irrigation for the Pacific Northwest. As a result of the dam, the falls were inundated, changing the way four tribes fished at the location.

This resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of that change.

It is my understanding that this resolution will not be used for future litigation claims and legislative purposes, so we have no objection.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years, a village stood at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, which today is the boundary between the States of Oregon and Washington.

Celilo Falls was known to Native Americans as a center for gathering and trade in the Pacific Northwest. It was so important that some have even called Celilo Falls the Wall Street of the West. Lewis and Clark described it as a great emporium where "the neighboring nations assemble."

Artifacts suggest that tribes as far away as Alaska, the Great Plains, and the Southwest of the United States came to trade at the falls for salmon and other goods. The trade was so extensive and the number of tribes who came to Celilo was so extensive that the number of languages spoken developed into a trade jargon known as Chinookan, and it was used among the people conducting business at Celilo.

Celilo Falls was also known as a great salmon fishery. Salmon were both sacred to and provided economic

wealth for the tribes who fished in the area. Thousands gathered to fish and trade along the river.

Fifty years ago, Celilo Falls changed forever. In 1957, the Dalles Dam was completed a few miles downriver from Celilo. Once the dam was completed and the flood gates closed, Celilo Falls was inundated in just 6 hours.

The Dalles Dam was constructed to provide hydroelectricity, irrigation, and to enable navigation. The dams along the Columbia and other rivers created numerous benefits for the Pacific Northwest. The slack water created by the dams provided easy and safe river navigation upriver to deliver goods to the inland Northwest. Today, barges can travel as far as Lewiston, Idaho, because of the navigable waters created by the dams.

However, the benefits created by the dams changed a way of life for the tribal peoples who were the first inhabitants of the Columbia River Basin. While some may not remember Celilo Falls before the Dalles Dam was completed, its effects remain fresh in the minds of many of the tribes of the Pacific Northwest. Recently, the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the falls was acknowledged by these tribes. This event both mourned what was lost and celebrated what remains today, tribal stories and culture, a way of life. Attendees included tribal officials and tribal members throughout the Pacific Northwest, nontribal members, and various Federal, State, and local governmental officials. The attendees reflect the relationship of the various groups who now work together to manage the river for all those who live in and visit the region today.

This resolution seeks to acknowledge and commemorate the flooding of Celilo Falls. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WU. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. I would appreciate engaging in a brief colloquy regarding H. Res. 217.

Is it the understanding of the gentleman from Oregon that the enactment of this resolution will not be used for litigation or legislative purposes?

Mr. WU. The gentleman is correct. The purpose of the resolution is commemorative, and limited to an expression of the sense of the House of Representatives.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for that clarification.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, today we memorialize and remember the events of more than 50 years ago when the gates closed for

the first time on the Dalles Dam, and within 6 hours another wild and noisy stretch of the mighty Columbia River fell silent and serene in the name of progress.

Celilo Falls was also known as Wyam, which means echo of falling water, or sound of water upon the rocks. And, indeed, what a sound it must have been to hear the fourth largest river in America as it crashed over basalt rocks and cliffs. Lewis and Clark's journals refer to the falls as a place where "the river turned on edge."

This photograph here to my left is actually one my father took as a colorized slide before the falls was inundated. It shows the tribal members fishing from these wooden platforms, roped to the edge with ropes around their waist. They would spread sand out on the platforms because all the water made the platforms so slick, and then they would engage with the dip nets to hoist 40-pound, 50-pound, 60-pound salmon out of the river. The trick was not to get more than two fish in your net because that might be more than you weighed, and you ran the risk of being dragged into the river. Indeed, there was a young man who fell in the river, and later was rescued and saved because he ended up in a net and was able to be pulled out.

What a river it was and what a river it is. As the Columbia River passed over these falls, the sound could be heard from miles away. During periods of high water, nearly 1 million cubic feet of water per second would pass over these falls. Now, let me put that in comparison: Niagara Falls in New York, 200,000 cubic feet of water passes over those falls.

□ 1245

A million would have passed over these. But it wasn't just these falls, because you see the basalt rapids continued on toward the Dalles for 11 miles. So not only were there these falls, but there were other rapids and falls along the way. And it was more than just a roaring falls or an historic and bountiful fishing area. It was, as some historians noted, "the Wall Street of the West."

In his book, "The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Trout, Their Fight for Survival," author Anthony Netboy described the scene this way:

"Here came Indians from the interior who had no fishing grounds of their own or whose fishing was poor, to trade for dried salmon, offering peltries from Montana, jade axes from the Fraser River area, horn of mountain sheep, baskets, rabbit or bearskins. The Klamath and Modoc peoples from Klamath Lake brought slaves and dentalia shells, their medium of exchange. Trade connections with the Dalles, says the anthropologist Philip Drucker, in 'Cultures of the North Pacific Coast,' stretched across the Rockies and into the Great Plains."

This was one of the most significant fisheries of the Columbia River. In